

2021 Master Gardener Survey

The first ever survey of our MMGA members was taken in December 2020. This was possible thanks to the experience and work of a MGIT, Doris Mae Oulton. The Information that was collected will be used to formulate our project plans over the next year.

The following is a brief overview. If you want to view the full results, contact the MMGA Secretary Lynne McCarthy at lmccarthy@mgmanitoba.com

99 email notifications were sent out, asking for participation in the survey; the survey took an average of eight minutes to complete. There were 30 questions.

64 responses were received. The completion rate for those who did the survey was 100%.

Overview of Results

87.5% of the respondents were 55 years of age or over. Ten of the 64 participants were from outside of Winnipeg. Of the respondents, almost 50% were members for five years or more and another almost 30% were members for three to four years. 70% were in a Study Group

Respondents identified the importance of MMGA for ongoing learning but indicated strong appreciation of belonging to a supportive community of like-minded people who were passionate (and knowledgeable) about plants.

In general, there was a high rate of satisfaction with MMGA membership.

Satisfaction accessing the website averaged 8.26 out of 10 and there were a great number of suggestions for articles in the Newsletter. One comment received on the newsletter was *"I find all articles interesting -- the wider the range of gardening- related topics, the better! It helps me explore beyond my comfort zone."*

MMGA events got good marks - but 10 people chose not to answer (16%). Films were assessed 8.3 out of 10; presentations 8.3 also, and garden tours were assessed 8 out of 10.

There was interesting feedback about a proposed “hands on” demonstration garden. On one hand, “hands on” training is a very effective training tool, on the other hand only half of the respondents could be occasionally available for assistance in the garden and only 20% were interested in using it to provide instruction.

The Greatest Perceived Benefit of Membership

When asked to list the greatest benefit of MMGA membership, the most common answers were

- Study groups – great support and place to meet knowledgeable, like-minded people (17)
- Networking with other gardening organizations and gardeners (16).
- The continuous learning (10).

Comment in survey: *“Meeting others who are as crazily passionate about the same topics and issues as I am has been very interesting and informative.”*

83% of the respondents would recommend MMGA membership to others. 15% would not.

What will the feedback be used for?

The survey with its many insights and suggestions will be used in a multitude of ways.

Suggestions for articles for Newsletter have been considered by the Newsletter Director, when planning content for future newsletters.

The feedback on the subject matter for articles as well as the list of suggestions on how MMGA could support the educational objectives of its members has been studied by the Education Committee as potential subjects when they plan general meetings, and presentations for next year.

The suggestions received about possible ways to improve study groups will be taken into consideration by the Study Group Co-ordinator.

And finally, the section on “Ways to Improve the MMGA” will be reviewed and reviewed again as the Board considers plans to strengthen the organization.